



# Family Readiness Report

## Commander's Column

Aloha to the 1/12 families -

On behalf of my family, I would like to say that it has been our distinct privilege and honor to join you as one of the newest members of the 1/12 family. The Marines and Sailors of the Battalion - soon to be Task Force - did a magnificent job before, during and after the Change of Command making me and my family feel truly welcome. I continue to marvel at their selfless dedication, adherence to standards, and pure professionalism. I have been fortunate to witness to the sincerely high level of motivation of your Marines and Sailors as I've toured the motor pool, supply, communications, operations, logistics and living spaces in the last few weeks. I am thrilled to be able to serve you and your Marines and Sailors.

As everyone knows from the last newsletter, the battalion's operational tempo has been remarkably high. The batteries continue their fast paced training in preparation for the upcoming deployment and are working hard to ensure all the Marines and Sailors are fully prepared for the challenges that lay ahead. After the change of command, they spent a week at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows (MCTAB) running through their procedures with the benefit of Iraqi and Arab role players that helped to facilitate truly realistic training. The successful week was topped off with Commander's Conference and a Family Day on 26 June that was a resounding success due to the efforts of our Marines and Sailors and their families. The pace of training is truly remarkable and, having only just taken command on 12 June, I am getting set to tour our future workspaces in Iraq. In a few short weeks, the Task Force will assemble at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in Fort Polk, Louisiana for our final major training exercise. The "graduation" exercise will fully test your Marines and Sailors and combine the newly joined individual augments and our two additional companies (D Co, 4th Antiterrorism Battalion based in Anchorage, Alaska and MP Co, MWSS-X72 from Cherry Point, North Carolina). Following this major exercise, the Task Force will take some much-deserved predeployment leave prior to departing for our deployment.

For our families, we have several events planned to continue to educate our family members and raise awareness about the preparations for the upcoming training at Cajun Viper and the deployment. Additionally, we are promoting the MCCS L.I.N.K.S. (Lifestyle, Lifestyle Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills) training for our spouses. (Website: <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/links/>) L.I.N.K.S. is a volunteer, team-mentoring program, designed by spouses for spouses. The program offers an orientation to the Marine Corps lifestyle, helping new spouses adapt to the unique challenges military life often presents. We believe it is an excellent way for our spouses to get educated on the military and a means of empowering them. It will also result in a half-day-off (Special Liberty) for your husband.

As LtCol Liszewski alluded to in his last set of comments to you, we continue to develop our Family Readiness Team. We recently graduated two new Key Volunteers and are continuing to see interest from many of our spouses who are eager to assist. We cannot do what we do without you and the efforts of these selfless volunteers and for this, we cannot thank you enough. My family and I look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming events and seeing what more we can do to prepare you for this upcoming mission. Thank you for your continued support.

Semper Fidelis,  
LtCol Christopher Tavuchis  
Commanding Officer  
1st Battalion, 12th Marines

### KEY VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Aloha 1/12 -

If you haven't noticed there has been a lot of change going on in our Battalion lately, new CO, new SgtMaj, new KVC. I have been with the 1/12 family for two years now as a KV for HQ Btry. Now I look forward to serving the entire battalion as we gear up for our next deployment.

This summer our Family Readiness Team has said goodbye to many of our seasoned volunteers. It has also brought us new and energetic faces. New or seasoned I hope you will all consider joining our team. There are so many great things on our horizon and I want you all to share in them.

Your KV's are here for YOU! Think of us as your Battalion 411. We want to help all of our spouses stay connected to their Marine Corps Family and learn of all the great resources the Marine Corps can provide. I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming event and remember if you every need anything your KV's and me are here to help.

Key Volunteer  
Coordinator

KVC1\_12@yahoo.com



# Sgt Maj Speaks!



Family and Friends of 1st Battalion, 12th Marines,

As our deployment draws near, your Marines and Sailors are continuing the final phase of our pre-deployment training.

I am excited about being associated with the caliber of Marines and Sailors of this Battalion, and extremely proud of how everyone has performed thus far. Our training will continue as we travel to Fort Polk, LA to operate as a Task Force and work together to accomplish even more complex tasks.

I want to emphasize how important Family Readiness is and ensure you that our Family Readiness Team and the Key Volunteer Network are available to assist the 1/12 families with your information and referral needs. Mission First, Marines and their Families Always.

SgtMaj Craig J Cowart  
Battalion Sergeant Major  
1st Battalion, 12th Marines

## FAMILY READINESS OFFICER

Aloha 1/12 Family,

My name is (MSgt Scott) Christopher Scott and I will be taking the new position as your new retire retain Family Readiness Officer. I'm really looking forward to serving the 1/12 families and giving you the best support possible. I have common interest in the Battalion just like you because I was a part of the 1/12 family for a little more than 3 years myself. I've currently just retired from the Battalion in March and was given the opportunity to stay and continue to be a part of the 1/12 family. I was very excited to be offered such a position and to have the opportunity to still care for the families of 1/12. What we have here at 1/12 is very special. The new FRO billet will allow me to be dedicated to the family readiness mission and ensure our families are equipped with the skills and resources needed to meet the challenges, of the military lifestyle, and deployments. As a result all families will be functioning in a higher state family readiness. This means that your individual Marine will be able to perform, function, and focus on the mission at hand because they will know that their families are well taking care of. Once again, I'm very glad to be here and I'm looking forward to serving and supporting the 1/12 family the best way I can and that is to be there for you!

MSgt Scott  
Family Readiness Officer  
1st Battalion, 12th Marines

## PHONE DIRECTORY

1/12 OOD	257-3207
Housing	257-1257
Central Appt.	473-0247
Hourly CDC	257-8354
CDC	257-1593
Base Chapel	257-3552
ITT	254-7563
Library	254-7624
SemperFit Center	254-7597
Navy Marine Corps Relief	254-1327
Marine & Family Services	257-7787
American Red Cross	257-8848
Resource & Referral	257-7430
Military Police	257-7114
Tripler Emergency	433-6629

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Every day when I come to work, I consider it a privilege to put on this uniform and serve the men, women and families who have committed themselves to this life we share together. An even greater privilege is to be a husband and a father. As I think of my family in light of the upcoming deployment I think about the things that I want them to know. For them, the deployment comes down to a pretty simple reality; daddy is going to be gone for a long time. But there are greater realities that I want to help them understand. First, and the most important reality for our family, is that no matter what there is a God who loves them and will take care of them and meet their needs. Second, daddy's love for them never changes no matter how far away I may be or what they may do; it is unconditional and unending. Third, the decision to be in the military, even though it takes me away, was an intentional well thought out choice for good reasons. I am serving something greater than myself, both God and country. There is nothing they have done which makes daddy want to go away, and it tears me up every time I have to leave, but it is something which I am privileged and called to do. These realities do not make the fact of family separation any easier emotionally, but hopefully during the deployment and as they grow up my children will come to understand the privilege, the responsibility and the honor it is to serve God, country and each other.

Chaplain Brian Hill  
1st Battalion 12th Marines



# BATTALION NEWS

## Pre-Deployment Brief

**This Brief is one of the most important things you can attend to prepare yourself and your family for the upcoming deployment. There will be speakers that will talk about Legal, pay benefits, housing, operational security and much much more.**

**Your Marines and Sailors have been training hard to prepare for this deployment. This is where you, the family member, get trained for the deployment. Whether you have been a Marine Family Member for 10 years or 10 days this brief will provide you with need to know information and resources that will be available to you.**

*1st Battalion 12th Marines Families  
Pre-deployment brief*

*July 16th*

*1830 - 2030*

*Base Chapel*

### UPCOMING TRAINING & EVENTS

- July 16 PreDeployment Brief - Chapel - 1830
- JRTC Training Ft Polk, LA.
- Unit LINKS session July 23&24 1730 - 2100
- Aug 2 Picnic in the Park 1100am
- Unit LINKS session Aug. 13&14 0830-1230
- 28 Aug. Town Hall Meeting Chapel 1830.
- Pre-deployment leave tentative Aug - Sept

**You're invited to attend a**

**Unit L.I.N.K.S.**

**Session Exclusively for 1/12!!**

Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge & Skills

L.I.N.K.S. is a program designed to provide knowledge about the Marine Corps and how it affects you. This program will help you acquire the knowledge and develop the skills needed to successfully meet the challenges ahead. It is also a great opportunity for you to meet spouses from your Marines unit that you will be sharing this deployment with.

Any spouse who attends one of these special sessions, will earn their Marine a 1/2 day special liberty pass.



Class Dates:

July 23 & 24

1730-2100

Aug 13 & 14

0900 - 1230

Call your KV for more information or to sign up!



**We are looking for a few good volunteers. If you would like to support the 1/12 Family Readiness Team see information below for more details on training dates.**

July 26 0830-1800

August 26-27 0830-1230

call - Mele Stender at 257-2410  
to register





### ALPHA BATTERY



Dear Family and Friends of Alpha Battery:

Since our last newsletter, our pre-deployment training program (PTP) has been in full swing and is quickly nearing its final stages. Our last major training event before deployment will be at the Joint Readiness Training Center in Ft. Polk, Louisiana. This is where we will bring together all of the skills we have learned and executed over the last three months, and perform as a full military police Task Force in a final training environment. Your continued support has enabled our Marines and Sailors to focus on the mission and training at hand, and it is truly paying off. Their hard work and dedication will be a key factor in our overall preparation for a safe and successful deployment.

Over the past month, our Marines and Sailors have continued with their small arms qualifications on the rifle, pistol and shotgun ranges, as well as completing our Enhanced Marksmanship Program (EMP) Training. We experienced our first look at Regional Detention Facility (RDF) Operations during our Battalion Mission Readiness Exercise in May. This allowed us to put our combat corrections and sustainment training into action for the first time and perform as a RDF. In June, we participated in the first of our Battery Evaluations for RDF operations. This gave us a realistic look at the culture and language barriers we will face, and allowed us to sit down and interact with Iraqi role players. We discussed the language and operational culture training needed in order to interact on a daily basis with Iraqi personnel, and then exercised those skills in a realistic training environment. The training was a success and the confidence of our Marines and Sailors in RDF Operations is extremely high going into our final evaluation.

PTP training will continue on through July and August as our Marines and Sailors complete the Gas Chamber, HMMWV Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT), RDF sustainment training and our Final evaluation at the Joint Readiness Training Center in FT. Polk, LA.

This last quarter we saw some marriage announcements and a number of new promotions. We would like to congratulate some of our Marines on their recent marriages. We extend a warm welcome to those couples from the Alpha Battery family.

Our new promotees are as follows:

Congratulations to LCpl's Fleege, Schneidewind, Hamilton, Carcione, Christian, Gross Hansen, Mendoza-Lopez, Preszler, Velke, Martinez-Witrigo, Sansoucie, and Munoz. We would also like to congratulate Cpl's Gamet, Pradocorona, Faria, Coleman and Weber as well as our newly promoted Staff Non-commissioned Officer, SSgt Long.

Our Family Day Picnic was a big success, and I enjoyed meeting the extended Alpha family. I hope it was enjoyed by all whom attended. As September nears, we will continue to be extremely busy with our pre-deployment training. I cannot thank you enough for your continued love and support. Our Marines and Sailors remain focused and determined, and I am extremely proud of the Marines and Sailors of Alpha Battery and their hard work and dedication to our upcoming mission.

God bless and Semper Fidelis!  
Captain Spencer Speer  
Alpha Battery Commander

### BRAVO BATTERY

Dear family and friends of Bravo Battery,

As promised our training schedule has been fast paced and packed with events. The Marines have been working hard to develop their individual skills. Throughout May and June we have had the chance to put those skills to the test and operate as platoons.

In the red mud of Schofield Barracks the Marines pushed through several days of continuous rain as they increased their proficiency on crew served weapons and live fire immediate action drills. The following week our knowledge and skills of convoy security were put to the test during the Battalion Mission Rehearsal Exercise. The Marines ran convoys from Bellows to Schofield Barracks simulating the missions we will execute in Iraq. The pace was fast and the Marines performed well. In the last week of June, the battery underwent evaluations by the battalion staff in a training exercise at the Bellows training area. The scenarios the Marines faced were challenging and tested both their physical ability as well as their mental ability. The exercise allowed us to determine our strengths and weaknesses and better prepare for the upcoming deployment.

In the month of July we will be focusing on completing the majority of our pre-deployment training, preparing gear for embark and storage, and preparing ourselves for our final training event at Cajun Viper in Ft Polk, Louisiana. Once again I expect this to be a busy month.

The support of our families continues to be a driving force in the success of Bravo Battery. I appreciate your patience and understanding during these long training days. As I said before, only **together** can we go forward and accomplish this mission.

Sincerely,  
Capt Brian Rockel  
Bravo Battery Commander





## CHARLIE BATTERY



Family and friends of  
Charlie Battery,

I would like to take this opportunity to speak to everyone about the importance of your support to our Marines and Sailors during this period of pre-deployment training.

The love and support you give to your Marines and Sailors keeps their morale high and will help them stay motivated throughout this combat deployment. I truly understand the far reaching effects the pre-deployment/future deployment has on both you and your family, and I will make all efforts to keep the lines of communication open on every end.

We are building a supportive Key Volunteer Network that will help you receive timely and accurate information, which will help to support your Marines or Sailor. All 1/12 Spouses are welcome to join 1/12's Key Volunteer Network. The more Key Volunteers we have supporting our Marines and Sailors, the more effective the KVN will be for our loved ones. To join, please contact your Key Volunteers at KVC1\_12@yahoo . com or the Battery office.

I would like to congratulate those Marines, Sailors and their families who were promoted or received awards during the months of May and June. Congratulations to all!

### May Promotions

Sgt Borbor (Meritorious), Cpl Lalumiere, Cpl Hlavacek, Cpl Martz, LCpl Harley, PFC Rockhill, PFC Hooper, Cpl Kooring, Cpl Deleon, Cpl Noel

### May Awards

SSgt Hakim – Navy Achievement Medal, Sgt Borbor – Navy Achievement Medal

### June Promotions

Cpl Thornton (Meritorious), LCpl Mendez, Cpl Mariano, LCpl Eisenreich, HM3 McKenny

### June Awards

Sgt Simmons – CERTCOM, Sgt Reppert – CERTCOM, Sgt Schritter – CERTCOM, Cpl Vesce – CERTCOM, Cpl Perez – CERTCOM, LCpl Martin D.J. – Meritorious Mast \_

I have enjoyed getting to know the Marines and Sailors over the last couple of months, and look forward to our upcoming training events at Cajun Viper. I have complete confidence in the Marines and Sailors of Charlie Battery in their ability to fully support the Battalion's overall mission. We all look forward to the time spent with family and friends after we complete Cajun Viper and the upcoming deployment.

Take care, and know that you will all be in my thoughts and prayers.

Semper Fidelis,

Capt Jon P. Connolly

---

## HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Dear HQ Battery families,

Pre-deployment training continues at a brisk pace for all the Marines in Headquarters Battery. Despite their various specialties and daily duties, the Marines in the battery have been attending important battery and battalion wide training events to get everyone ready to deploy. We've been working on things like wills, powers of attorney, and family care plans to get families ready for deployment as well.

Over the next month, the schedule is as busy as ever, but the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend will afford everyone some well-deserved time off. After that, we will be preparing to pack

up our gear and leave for the Joint Readiness Training Center in Fort Polk, LA for about a month of training. Then, we will be ready for pre-deployment leave, which is scheduled from August 29<sup>th</sup> until September 14<sup>th</sup>.

I appreciate your continued support for your Marines. They wouldn't be able to do it without you!



Sincerely,  
Capt William M. Mangham  
HQ Battery Commander





## FAMILY DAY



FAMILY DAY WAS A SUCCESS!

From volleyball to the beach, the band to the burgers. 1/12 Marines and their families had a great day at bellows. You can never go wrong with good food, good friends and good times!



# DID YOU KNOW???

## 1/12 Spouses

## S.O.S

## Society Of Support

Created by 1/12 spouses for 1/12 spouses. S.O.S. is your inspirational, motivational and emotional network providing friends and fun for the deployment and beyond.

Contact [SOS.hawaii@yahoo.com](mailto:SOS.hawaii@yahoo.com) for info on upcoming events.

**1st Event Ladies Bowling Night July 25th 7pm at KBay Lanes.**

### Leadership Skills Workshop

July 22 & 24 1000-1300

- Improve Relationships
- Increase Communication Skills
- Discover Personality Strengths & Similarities
- Valuing and Respecting Individual Differences
- Ideas for Handling Challenging Personalities

To register, call **Marine Corps Family Team Building**  
**Jocelyn Pratt**, Life Skills Trainer 257-2653 or 257-2410



### Going on Vacation?

Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks are offering complimentary admission to active-duty military representing all five services, active members of a reserve or National Guard unit, and/or up to three direct dependents. The offer is valid for one complimentary, single-day admission per person, per year, to one of the following Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks: SeaWorld Orlando, San Diego, or San Antonio, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay or Williamsburg, Sesame Place, Adventure Island and Water Country USA. For information on how to apply for the complimentary tickets, visit the Here's to the Heroes website.

[www.herosalute.com](http://www.herosalute.com)



### Preparing for a PCS-Step One: Cleaning!

By Renee Jaffer NMFA Volunteer Okinawa, Japan

My favorite resource for Permanent Change of Station (PCS) moves is *Money and Mobility*, a publication jointly published by NMFA, NASD Investor Education Foundation, and the National Endowment for Financial Education. It covers almost everything you need to know about preparing for a move from finances to pets. Unfortunately- it doesn't cover that super-secret topic- How to Clean Your House and Organize Your Move at the Same Time! Download *Money and Mobility* from ([www.nmfa.org](http://www.nmfa.org)), then read ahead to discover great tips for doing the dirty work!

I went online to another favorite resource for military families, [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) and found a generic Moving Checklist.

These tips stood out:

Begin early to clean out hard-to-pack areas! The attic, basement, garage and storage units should be organized, and then cleaned.

Make arrangements to clean drapes, carpet, and upholstered furniture. Start fresh in your new location.

Dispose of items too dangerous to move: paint, aerosols, and propane tanks.

Give away plants you can't take with you.

Clean out your refrigerator, pantry, and spice cabinets.

Other great ideas include cleaning top to bottom, room by room. Start at the back of your house and move forward to avoid tracking muck through clean areas. Set misplaced items just outside the room you're cleaning to avoid being distracted from your task. After the movers have left, focus on the true grit- window casings, closet shelves, under appliances. If you can afford it pay a professional! You know a PCS is coming... start early and clean often before you PCS.





# TOWN HALL MEETING!

**THE TOWN HALL MEETING IS NOT  
JUST ANOTHER PRE-DEPLOYMENT  
BRIEF!**



This meeting is your opportunity to ask questions and follow up on any information you may have missed from the pre-deployment brief.

Your Command team and your family readiness team will be up front and ready to help you find the answers you are looking for.

Get your calendar out and **SAVE THE DATE!!!!**

**AUG 28th**

**1830 - 2030**

**Base Chapel**

Childcare will be provided by advance reservation with the CDC. Call 257-1388 or your Key Volunteer for more information.

Commanding Officer  
1st Battalion 12th Marines  
PO BOX 63024  
MCBH KANEOHE, HI 96863